Nation

Volume 4, No. 7 • February 28, 1997

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How do you get to work?

Hey chief, want a lift?

No, thanks! I'm walking...

Flowers for the walkers!

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Kino-Québec

Do I bitch?

Are you ready to quit? Sick of the system? Fed up with the mysterious "they" Cree leadership/your boss/the feds in Ottawa/the PQ in Quebec City and all who control your destiny?

Yes? Well friend, you may be suffering from the common disease of the downtrodden—APATHY! Apathy is defined as follows: 1. lack of feeling, emotion or sensation, insensibility; 2. indifference, lack of interest.

How many times these days have you heard someone bitching about the system, any or all of them? Just about every day—right? Compare the number of complaints to the number of suggestions to fix the problem or change the situation. I don't think you'll find an even ratio. Most of us run off at the mouth with the slightest provocation. Few of us ever make real concrete, rational suggestions for the betterment of all. We're apathetic! We'd rather bitch than fight. The common excuse is, "Who's going to listen to me. I'm just a..." What we forget is those people running, handling or in some way managing the system were at one time "just a..." Maybe some of them remember how it was. We'll never know unless we try! Try what? Well for starters something different than apathy.

Apathy is a funny condition. Some people just drift into it, others need a little shove. That's where the people on top do their thing. To give an example, comedians and singers who use their audiences in their acts tend to get more applause than those who come on, do their thing and go. Why? The audience who takes part in the singing or comedy sketches identifies with the performer and responds to this. They go away feeling they've taken part in the show and they feel good.

Compare that to our own Cree situation. Those of us on the bottom of the totem pole sometimes get the feeling that we're in the audience and the stage show is playing to something or someone over our heads. We're not part of the act. In some cases we don't even know what the act is! The results are predictable, applause is minimal, as most of us are sitting on our hands.

This type of thing makes us apathetic and we get exasperated. We yell and sometimes swear and then go back to sitting on our hands. This isn't good enough. All of us have to fight against it. We, the people, and they, the bosses. To bastardize a JFK quote: Ask not what they can do for you, but what you can do for everyone. Do it now for all our sakes.

To this end, I will make this editorial space open to Cree community residents who have something real, concrete and rational to say that does more than just bitch at the system. Give me a call at 1-514-272-3077.

by William Nicholls

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COVER PHOTO:

Larry MacLeod - 1st Place in the Raid Des Braves. The skidoo is member of Team Waswanipi. Photo by Neil Diamond
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

UNKNOWN

"It was green, had big eyes and long teeth," said Ti-Jean but I didn't believe him and it was late so I wanted to leave. We had heard too many of these stories. Earlier when I was more alert, a geophysicist said he had seen "lights" on the other side of Hudson Bay. There wasn't time for him to elaborate because the plane was leaving with or without me. There was another one. In a place on the land a Cree family is visited for four nights by lights in the sky. When the SQ came to investigate, the visitors left. I don't blame them. I bet they leave when NASA is around too. We can only hope. Who in the known universe wouldn't want to visit a place like the rez. Look at the *Radissonie*. They visited 20 something years ago and now they don't want to leave. And don't plan to. It is past sundown.

Photo With Celebrity Contest: If you don't recognize the guy standing with his arm wrapped around Edna Neeposh of Nemaska, he is Jackson Browne (photo above). I'm pretty sure he played with The Eagles. The photo was taken at some swanky club in Manhattan after the Ban The Dam Jam at the Beacon Theatre. This photo is worth 4.5 points on the scale we use. Several more than Herman and Muller from our previous entries. Why? Because he had a well-documented and tempestuous affair with Darryl Hannah who also had a fling with John Jr. of the Kennedy clan. And she also starred as the mermaid with Tom Hanks in Splash.

This other photo is of Tina Keeper and Bertie Wapachee. Bertie's submission gets a 4.4 because he also had photos of Tom Jackson and Gordon Tootoosis. Wait a minute, he also had photos of Susan Aglukark and Tantoo Cardinal of Dances with Wolves and Black Robe at the Aboriginal Achievement Awards. But the rule is one photo per contestant and after analyzing the situation further we find it deserves additional .1 for effort. Alright, potential contestants the people to beat are Jackson Browne and Tina Keeper. Keep those photos coming before the as yet undecided upon deadline.

Things get so hectic here during production we forgot to identify the kids on our Valene's Day issue. The two are Tanya Blacksmith and Jordan Blacksmith Heritage of Mistissini. They were three at the time.

Ndiamon

the Nation

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NASA markings are clearly visible on these buildings located on Category I land at LG-1. NASA denies it has a facility there.

150 CALL ON WEMINDJI CHIEF TO RESIGN

One hundred and fifty Wemindji residents have signed a letter asking Chief Walter Hughboy to resign because the band is "out of control."

"We, members of the First Nation of Wemindji, know for a fact that you don't have the credibility both internally and externally as a leader," says the letter.

"You have lost confidence from the community, the Cree Nation, Government and industry. Our relationships with them are very strenuous and this is becoming a liability for the community operations."

The letter accuses Hughboy of being present only eight days in Wemindji since being re-elected as chief last Sept. 12. "You have not been back in our community since November 28, 1996. You can not run our community from Ottawa," says the letter, dated Jan. 16 of this year.

The letter writers are also concerned about financial problems at the community's entities and businesses. They say Hughboy is hiding information from residents about what's going on.

"As far as we are concerned, there is no leadership in Wemindji. There is no chief in our community," says the letter, adding that residents "are fed up with this situation and demand that you step down immediately as Chief."

Chief Hughboy wouldn't comment on the letter, but one band executive said the chief has nothing to hide and invites anyone who wants to come examine the band's books. He also said Hughboy must be absent from the community for good reasons. The chief has been involved in meetings and negotiations in the South with other Cree chiefs, the Assembly of First Nations, the Quebec government and feds, Hydro-Quebec and other companies.

"No matter who's chief from now on, you have to spend the same amount of time out of the community," we were told. "Decisions affecting Native people are not made in Wemindji. They're made in Ottawa, they're made in Montreal."

The band official admitted that some Wemindji-owned entities aren't making loads of money for the community, but said they provide valuable services and needed jobs. Also, he said Hughboy is still negotiating with Hydro-Quebec over the idea of building three or four new mini-hydro dams on the Maquatau River. This will generate revenue for the band.

He said Hughboy won't resign because the people have repeatedly re-elected him: "Once you're elected, you can't resign. It's not the Cree way to resign. It's the white way to resign. It's not in our nature."

But Annie Saganash, one of Hughboy's critics, isn't convinced. She says the band has no leadership and Hughboy keeps residents in the dark. She pointed to a community referendum which was held on Feb. 21, the day after this issue of *The Nation* went to print. One of the questions was whether Wemindji should have a "virtual casino," something Saganash said hasn't been explained properly to the community. "Nothing is clear on that," she said. "Almost 75 per cent of the population is on welfare. How are we going to benefit from a casino? People will blow their welfare cheques on that. Gambling is already bad in the community. What's it going to be like with a casino?"

by Alex Roslin

NASA SIGHTING INVESTIGATED

Why does NASA have an installation at LG-1 complete with satellite dish and other strange gadgets?

We at *The Nation* felt like we were caught in a bad episode of The X-Files as we tried to get to the bottom of NASA's presence in Iyiyuuschii. Are they keeping an eye on UFO sightings? Is there something Crees should know about? Is the truth *really* out there?

First off, we called up NASA's Canadian office in Montreal, where a certain Dr. Dipak Talapatra said he was in charge of NASA for all of Canada and claimed his was the only NASA office in the whole country. "As far as I know, NASA has no facility there. If it was there, I would know about it."

Is NASA investigating UFOs? Talapatra wasn't very helpful on that either. "I don't know. I saw some reports that the Air Force or some military people were looking into that. Otherwise, I have no idea what's going on."

The people at NASA's Washington headquarters were no more help. "I don't believe it's necessarily a NASA facility," said a public-relations official, who suggested it might just be some company that has the same name as NASA. Hmm...

A call to Hydro-Quebec's Radisson office proved a little more fruitful. An HQ official confirmed what NASA denied: It is a NASA facility. We got faxed an interesting scientific article from some Quebec magazine. Supposedly, NASA is there studying movements of the Earth's crust.

"This area was once covered by an immense glacier, and now that it has been freed, the land is moving around and breathing. This creates a lot of movement and we are in a region that is particularly active," explains a NASA scientist.

Apparently, James Bay is moving about a centimetre each year and the land "is rapidly transforming."

A centimetre each year! In the 20 years that Hydro-Quebec's dams have been in Iyiyuuschii, that means nearly a foot. What effect has this had on the hydro installations? Was this taken into account in Hydro's planning? Is this being considered in plans to bury nuclear waste in the Canadian Shield?

The Nation's investigation continues. Stay tuned.

—*Alex Roslin*

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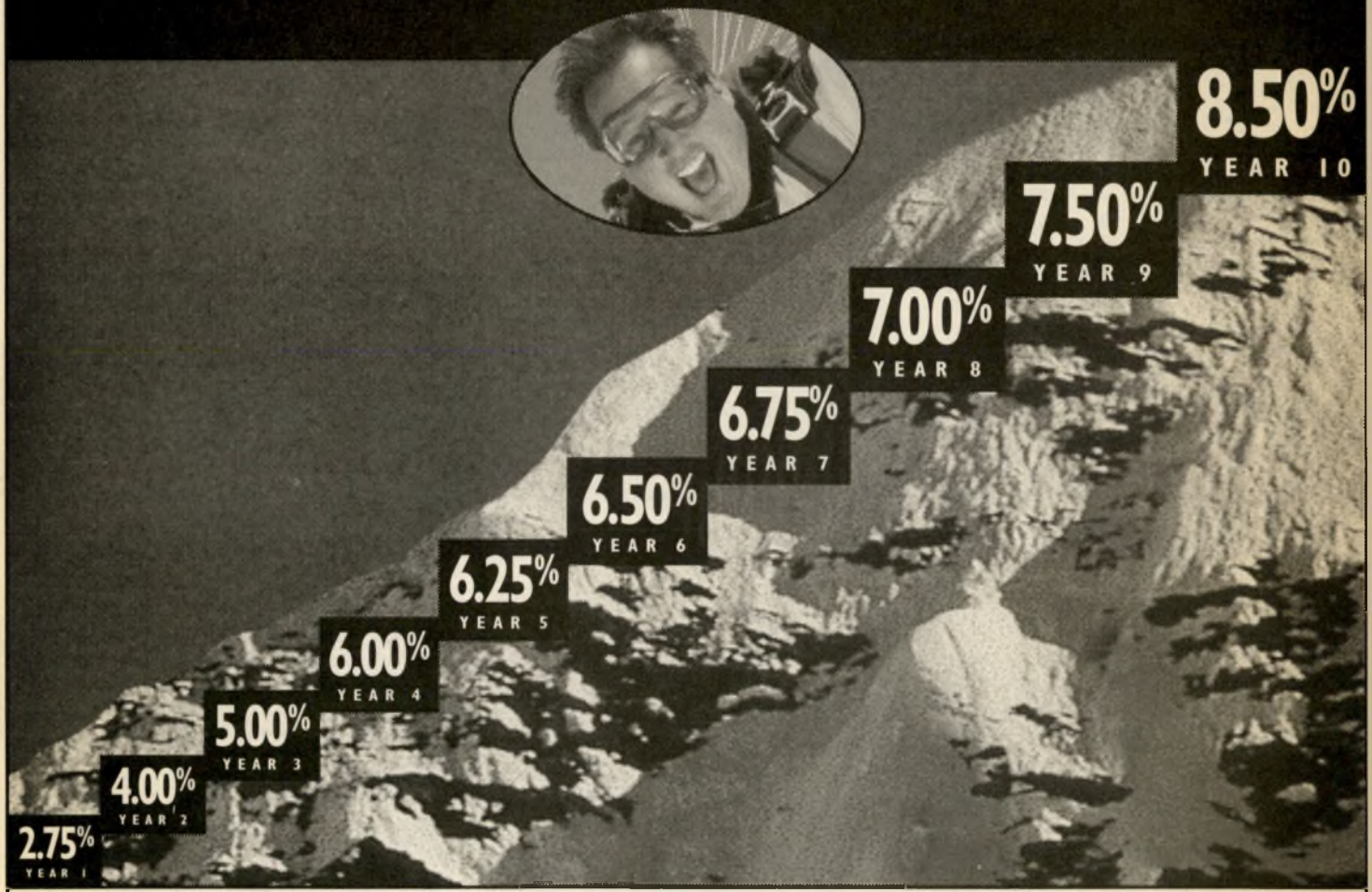

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MOTO-X SEASON APPROACHETH

Katejun Coonishish and Nathaniel Bosum are in spring training. The moto-cross season is coming up soon and the moto-x superstars from Ouje-Bougoumou are ready.

Faithful readers will remember that our lads were headed to Florida before the holidays to compete in a prestigious international moto-cross challenge.

Twelve countries were represented by 3,800 racers. It was the first time there for both boys and they did very impressively, even though they were competing against "factory riders" with machines a year more advanced than everyone else's.

Nathaniel outperformed all the other Canadians in his age group, placing 14th out of 100 riders in the Grand Prix, 13th out of 42 who made the Moto-X finals and 27th out of 42 finalists in Super-X.

Katejun placed 25th out of 140 competitors in his age group, even though he had a tooth ache for the first two days of the six-day competition and had to see a dentist.

Katejun and Nathaniel are getting ready for races this spring in Quebec. The first one is in Trois-Rivieres this April. Good luck, boys!

CONTAMINATED SITES WON'T BE CLEANED UP

Over 20 contaminated sites in Iyiyuuschii won't be cleaned up because a study says they don't pose a health risk.

An average of two sites are polluted in each Cree community. In most cases, the sites are soaked with gasoline that spilled from leaky drums or when it was poorly handled.

The Cree Regional Authority recently did a "risk assessments" study of all the sites to see how much health risk they pose to residents.

None of the sites qualified as health risks under Indian Affairs rules. This means the government won't pay for them to be cleaned up, said Jeanette LaJoie of the CRA.

The cost would vary from $15,000 to $200,000 per site, she said.

But Lajoie said the storage and handling of petroleum products needs to be improved in all the communities. Otherwise, a future health risk is possible and more money will have to be spent on a clean-up.

In Eastmain, residents of two new homes recently complained of smelling gas fumes when they moved in. It turned out the site was once a gas bar.

Luckily, the contaminated area was in the front yard, which meant the homes didn't have to be ripped down. Still, the front yards and ground water had to be cleaned up.

But an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, as they say. Spending money on proper storage and handling of contaminants now will save much more money in the future, said LaJoie. She said pollution prevention would cost each community $6 to 7,000 range each year. It's got the same appeal as that old commercial about radiator fluid where the mechanic says you can pay me now (for a bottle of coolant) or you can pay me later (for an engine).

The CRA is proposing a system which would see the CRA continue to provide guidance and assistance in a Cree Environmental Management System, but the focus would be at the community level. Local Environmental Administrators would take care of environmental audits in each community.

LEA's would handle the regulation of handling and storage of petroleum products, waste management, industrial activities, industrial development on Cree lands (like sawmills, forestry, mines), power generation, building construction, infrastructure development (roads, water, sewers, electricity) and land-use planning.

Paul MacLean, of the company that did the risk-assessment study for the CRA, said, "If implemented this would be the first First Nations environmental system in Canada and is an unique opportunity for individual Cree First Nations to take full autonomy and control of an first nations environmental management system."

by William Nicholls

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When Hell froze over...

RAID

The race began in typical *Nation* style with an early morning call from an almost hysterical colleague saying something about a brief but violent scuffle, cops at the door at four in the morning and a flight cancellation. After statements were taken and bruises nursed, *The Nation* team was ready to intercept the raiders.

Larry MacLeod of the Mistissini Team waiting for the start in Waskaganish

by Neil Diamond, Alex Roslin & Ernest Webb

Lebel-sur-Quévillon: You can't escape the Macarena. The crowd lining the Prologue track was dancing the Macarena. The music was blaring from the rent-a-dj's van as the teams were lining up to do the Prologue. They even put in a water pit. So the Mistissini team, the first off the line, had to power their way through the water. The water had all drained by the time the third or fourth team that passed through, but the later teams had to contend with ruts dug deeper with each passing team. In the end, Senneterre won the Prologue with the Cree Trappers behind them by one second. The race started the following morning with three stages including Malartic, Lasarre and V.V.B. I kept asking who's cousin lives in V.V.B. Why are we stopping in that town or whatever it is? I got my answer when we went into our host Raymond's Garage/ Workshop. It was a whiskeychan's paradise. He had everything in that little shack. Every team had the same deal.

Day 3 The young Eastmain team of Mervin Cheezo, John Moses and Conrad Gilpin come in first into Waskaganish around 3:30 p.m., followed mere seconds later by Chapais. Chapais is favored by many to take first place overall. Mistissini arrives just behind Chapais and then nothing but silence towards the Nottaway River.

The racers gathered at the lodge for rest and refreshments. The locals gather in the restaurant and watch for late arrivals. Now and then there would be a rush to the windows when someone would give a false alarm with, "Oooooh!" Larry, a local construction foreman, fooled many when he crossed the finish line with his new Bombardier. Other teams slowly arrived in hourly intervals.

Later we hear that only Waswanipi, Kuujjuaq and the team from France are still to finish this leg of the 3,000-kilometre Raid Des Braces, the world's longest off-trail snowmobile race. Nobody's sure about the situation of these teams. We hear Kuujjuaq has turned back to Matagami due to lack of cash for gas and getting misdirected by Raid officials. Waswanipi are stuck behind France who can't get up a slippery river bank. They try to help but to no avail.

We later learn France fell through ice and had to spend the night in wet sleeping bags three hours from Waskaganish without tents. It takes four skidoos to pull out their too-heavy Yamaha, which they rented not long before the race. We learn they are considered rebels back home in France, where no one is allowed to ride on a snowmobile anywhere in the country except for people who need them for work on ski hills and such. They practice in secluded areas in the dead of night. The next day, the story of the "lost" French team is front-page news in France.

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Back in Waskaganish, mechanics are busy tuning up the machines in garages, warehouses and even the firehall. Waswanipi runs out of gas on the trail and arrives only at 4 a.m. "We weren't going to quit. We're Native," Waswanipi's Don Saganash tells us later. The team gets a couple of hours of sleep and starts early the next day without losing points.

Day 4

Every team except France and Kuujjuaq line up at the starting line early on a bright cold morning with Eastmain in front. The camera crew have their mike in someone's face and ask a question. Not satisfied with the racer's answer, the director tells him, "Say: 'My ski-doo will...'" and the rest is drowned out by the noise. "My ski-doo will..." repeats the racer.

They are off and within minutes we see nothing but their trail of smoke. Flying over the bay we see a team and they are just specks in the landscape. Our plane lands in Eastmain just as either Wemindji or Chisasibi Trappers (both are driving Bombardiers) enter the village. France finally arrives in Waskaganish before noon and are still in the race. "They'll be here by the spring," says George, the local wit. "I'll probably meet them when I go hunting this spring." Comparisons between France and the Jamaican Bobsled Team are made on the flight to Wemindji.

Wemindji has entered a team for the first time. We tell the locals that their boys' gas tank had been "sanded" by someone in a Lebel-sur-Quévillon garage. Their alert mechanics found out and fixed the problem. Why anyone would want to sabotage a rookie team was a mystery no one could answer. Finally, we land in Chisasibi where the teams will rest, eat and spend the night. Mistissini cross the finish line in Chisasibi first, followed by Eastmain. A banquet is held for the racers at the community centre and there is a dance afterwards.

Day 5

We are awakened by Gary, a mechanic for Team CSC of Chisasibi at five in the morning. Breakfast is at 6:30 a.m. Nobody but *The Nation* shows up on time. A crowd has gathered near the churches as snow machines are revved up and last minute checks done. One by one the teams take off for Whapmagoostui. This part of the raid is considered the more treacherous of the legs, where temperatures can dip below -50 degrees with wind chill. Not only that, there are jagged pieces of ice and rock in many spots near the windblown cape. Not to mention polar bears and caribou. Roy Snowboy of the Chisasibi Trappers seems to know the route well and is pointing it out on a map for another team.

PHOTO: ERNEST WEBB

Team 25 on the way to 381.

The race to Great Whale begins with all teams starting on time save for Nemaska and France. Nemaska are having a hard time getting one of their machines started, while one member of the France team has misplaced his helmet and they need gas. They do not leave without a fight. France's Aurillon Frederic comes racing to where his manager is standing near the finish line after Nemaska takes off and finds his frozen helmet which had been around all this time. He practically flies off his skidoo and gives his manager a tongue-lashing in almost-unintelligible French. "You asshole!!!" "C'est le bordelle!" ("This is a whorehouse!"), he screams. There it was—proof that they really are rude as the American sitcoms have been telling us all these years. The officials are not amused and unceremoniously wave them off.

As promised, we are driven by bus to the LG-2 airport for the flight to Whapmagoostui, always a step ahead of the racers. At the airport, things change. "You can't get on," someone tells us at the airport. The plane we are supposed to get on with a film crew is nowhere to be found. When it finally arrives three hours later, we are told "important" people have to get on. A sympathetic member of the film crew gives me her seat and we take off on Air Walter. Alex has to wait over five hours at the airport for the next flight.

We land in Kuujjuarapik ("not Great Whale, Alex—Kuujjuarapik!" an official had corrected us, unaware that the community has more than one name) in freezing weather and snow blowing fiercely across the mighty Great Whale River. No one but officials and the camera crew are at the finish line. A few trucks are parked at the bank of the river with the drivers warm inside.

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PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

Maggie & Andrew Natachequan. Andrew sang at a feast for the racers.

We are busy trying to push a stuck Suburban up a slippery hill when Eastmain crosses the finish line. John Moses, racing for Team Eastmain, frantically gestures for directions to the clinic, but it is impossible to understand him through the wind, their roaring snowmobiles and his mask. He needed 12 stitches after his machine hit a bumpy patch and flipped over 25 miles out of Whapmagoostui. Bleeding profusely from his knee, John got back on his machine and kept going, nearly fainting twice from the pain. It took him 2 1/2 hours to get to town, but Eastmain still managed to finish sixth.

Willie Trapper from JBCCS and I check into the Co-Op Motel near the airport. It is posh by northern standards. Not long after, we see Team France has made it to town and we head towards the airport. We see them seconds later going back the way they came from, obviously lost. The mechanics and a few journalists arrive at 6:30 p.m. I kid Alex that even France made it here before he did.

There is a banquet at the community hall with pizza and sandwiches on the menu. A cake is on display decorated with a skidoo and rider as its centerpiece. Elder Andrew Natachequan is introduced and sings two songs on his drum. He advises the racer to be cautious when they leave the next day and shares some wisdom with them. The skidoo is fast, he says, but if it breaks down in the bush you're in trouble. Snowshoes are slower, but they don't ever break down. Andrew said Crees honour everything in Creation. Later, community members line up to shake the hands of all the guests. Gifts made by the community's women are given out by Chief Matthew Mukash. Several miniature handmade snowshoes are the first to go as the teams take turns choosing their gifts. During his welcoming address, Chief Mukash apologizes to the chairman of the Raid Des Braves, Don Murphy, before talking about why the Crees opposed the Great Whale Hydro Project. We find out later that Murphy is also the president of SDBJ, and many of the organizers are SDBJ employees. Two Hydro-Quebec employees are also present during the entire Raid, on hand to give the right spin to the journalists.

Later at the motel, one racer is locked out of his room by his teammates and he's wearing only a pair of blue longjohns. At the top of many participants' itinerary was a visit to the social club so we rush over to cover the story. At the social club a journalist comments that he liked Mukash's speech but said more tact would have been better. He doesn't understand what lengths a people will go to protect their river. He drunkenly suggests to me that I would be well-suited for a job advising the chiefs. If only he had followed the recent election.

Last call is called at 11:30 p.m. and I'm a few minutes late but I give it a try and sidle up to the bar to order two more. "Too late," the bartender tells me. I tell him my watch is a bit slow so he gives me two more. Alex goes up for a few more but his negotiating skills aren't as finely honed as mine so he contents himself with finishing the rest of his now-almost-warm Molson Dry. People start to file out reluctantly around midnight while we sit ignoring the polite staff's requests to leave. Finally, we surrender and practically squeeze the few remaining drops of beer from our cans before walking in the freezing cold to our motel down the hill, where we pass out almost immediately.

Day 6

We miss the start and breakfast completely the next morning and rush to secure places on the flight to Radisson. There are the usual delays and uncertainties when Alex doesn't make it on the roll call for the flight. "I don't know if you can get on," we are told once again. His negotiating strengths multiply in airports so he makes it on the plane with time to spare, where it turns out there are seven empty seats. We talk to the Team Chapais *mechaniciens*. They have six members on their team and have $60,000 invested in this race. "Our secret is good relations with everybody in the team," confesses one of the Chapais boys.

After a quick hop to Radisson, we are bussed to Auberge Radisson. The racers are scheduled to arrive around four, just past the spillway 10 kilometres away. Out of nowhere a Hydro-Quebec employee tells Willie Trapper, "Billy, next time I ask you a question, tell me the truth." He had asked the Cree journalist at LG-2 airport if there had been anybody left in Great Whale who might arrive later. "There was nobody at the airport," answered Willie, who didn't like being given other people's responsibilities.

The bus is scheduled to leave at 3:30 p.m. for the finish line, but we don't trust anybody at this point so we hitch a ride with Earl and Madeline from Chisasibi. Reports on their CB radio say the racers are very close. Madeline is scheduled to do a report on a satellite phone to Chisasibi. Their communications system seems to be better than the race's organizers, who have no way of talking to the two rented choppers. The CB crackles that the Chisasibi Trappers have

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continued from pg.11

arrived first. A large crowd is gathered around the first-place finishers while their sleds are inspected by Raid officials. They are required to have several key items whenever they cross a finish line: a thermos with hot liquid, matches, an axe, a survival kit and a first-aid kit. Without them, points are taken off. Later when another team arrives, a young Cree member of one of the teams stands vigilantly by the officials muttering almost to himself, "Watch them, watch them. Jigitcheatoowidge wash."

A lone member of Team Chapais crosses the finish line pointing behind him with an empty gasoline tank in his lap. He is quickly back off with a refill for his teammates, who had run out of gas. All three racers of each team must finish before full points are awarded. Not long after, another loner stops on the hill overlooking the final stretch into Radisson. He sits there for minutes. As I get closer his team mates come around the corner and they all take off before I can ask them anything or snap a photo. Most spectators leave as the sun sets and the temperature drops.

Over dinner, we have a good laugh when a journalist "who knows the president of Hydro-Quebec" informs us that every Cree man, woman and child gets a cheque for $400 each week. Neil protests, but this guy is from another planet. "Just ask Billy," he suggests. "He knows about it." We excuse ourselves from the table and later watch Billy on TV getting his Aboriginal Lifetime Achievement Award. "Where's my $400?" Neil calls to the TV. We head over to the Boreale Bar and it is full of Crees, mostly youth from all over. We collect a few UFO facts and head back to the "Auberge."

Day 7

Finally, Neil is allowed a ride on one of the helicopters. It is mild and snowing—the only day of the nine-day Raid with any snow. Terrible for aerial photos. The pilot looks like he's spent time in Vietnam and flies like he did. He takes quick turns and dives that make the flight-inexperienced nauseous. Nearly 130 kilometres out of Radisson by the transmission line, several teams have gathered. "Nobody wants to make the trail," one of them says. They ask each other for cigarettes and joke between themselves. Chapais decides to break the trail and heads off in the deep snow.

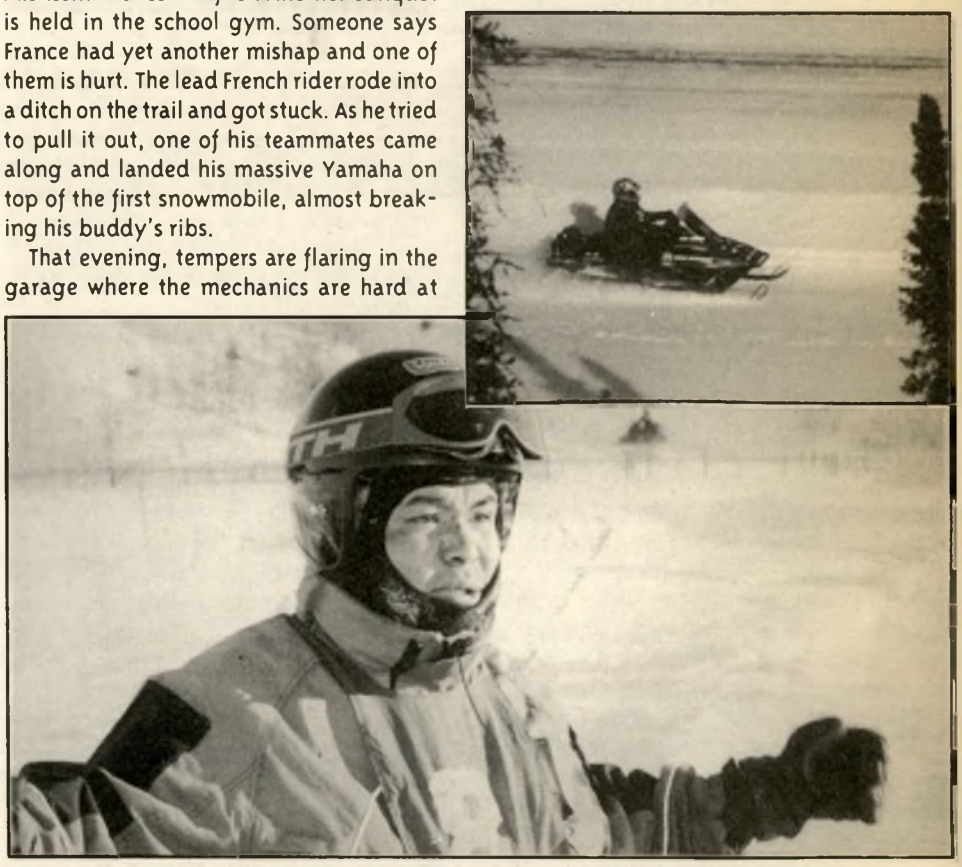
A few minutes later the chopper lands by a creek crossing the power lines and wait. Finally, we see coloured headlights. It is Chapais. One of them crosses the creek with no problem. The one with the sled follows and gets stuck. The team pushes but the sled and machine won't budge. Even the official tries to help push them out, as five or six teams wait on the opposite side. The sled doesn't move so they use the chopper to lift it out. We land at Kilometre 381. After a brief stop here, the racers will continue toward Nemaska some three hours away. For some reason France is to leave first. They get no farther than the first stand of trees before they make a wrong turn. It's going to be a long ride.

It is dark when the chopper lands in Nemaska. Some people have been waiting since early afternoon and mill about looking towards 381. It is late and no one knows where the racers are. The freshly fallen snow delays everybody. Later, it is reported that Mistissini makes it in first. Another banquet is held in the school gym. Someone says France had yet another mishap and one of them is hurt. The lead French rider rode into a ditch on the trail and got stuck. As he tried to pull it out, one of his teammates came along and landed his massive Yamaha on top of the first snowmobile, almost breaking his buddy's ribs.

That evening, tempers are flaring in the garage where the mechanics are hard at work most of the night, like every night, to make sure the machines are running the next day. The race is especially hard on the mechanics, who have to travel all day and work all night, with only a few hours of sleep in between. This night, a racer from Chisasibi is angry at someone from Team Radisson who knocked into his machine and cut him off earlier in the day, almost sending him flying into a tree. A complaint is considered, but Raid organizers tell us little can be done if there are no official witnesses.

It is in Nemaska that we notice the latest fashion craze sweeping Iyiyuuschii. Yellow jackets with black trimmings. We ask ourselves if it is merely a coincidence that this trend first appeared after *The Nation*'s Fashion Supplement last summer, which featured someone wearing a yellow jacket.

continued on pg.14



PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND

Roy Snowboy can't cross finish line without team.

René Deraspe, Télébec customer, Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

René Deraspe found his long distance calls were costing him too much. We suggested he tear his bill in half.

René Deraspe often calls his sister in Québec, his brother in Sept-Îles and his good friends in Montréal. Thankfully, over the last five years, Télébec has cut the average cost of its long distance calls in half. And these savings will continue, with reductions of 4% in 1997 and 4% in 1998 for all calls coming from or to remote regions. René is relieved. Now he can talk as long as he wants, without feeling torn anymore.

Télébec
Close to you

continued from pg.12

Brian Duff from Chisasibi fighting deep snow, on his way out of Radisson.

John Moses hit ice and was out of the race.

PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

Racers face deep snow, and half the stretch between Radisson and 381 is cancelled.

Day 8 Again, we miss another start and hop on the bus for the ride to Mistissini on the Route Du Nord. Neil gets a second chance for a ride in the chopper, this time on a clear day, but there is little time given for more photos and the whirly bird heads for Mistissini. There, we see most certainly the largest reception waiting for the "Raid" we have witnessed so far. The atmosphere is almost festive as powerful snowmobiles speed back and forth on the lake. Three kids are buzzing around the crowd in their mini snowmobiles made up to look like the real racers, complete with sled and supplies. People find warmth and refreshments in several teepees and tents in the culture camp. There is moose, beaver, hot tea and coffee for sale. Mistissini's Pimpichuu team comes in triumphantly in first place into their home community, followed by Chapais and Nemaska.

We hear about another mishap with Team France: On their way to Mistissini, one of them crashed into a tree. The race is scheduled to start again early the next morning for the final stretch through Ouje-Bougoumou, Chapais and to the final finish line in Chibougamau.

continued on pg.19

Où J'ai des Sports

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Cree Nation of Chisasibi

Chisasibi

The Cree Nation of Chisasibi would like to wish the winning teams: **Pimpichuu Team** of Mistissini, **Barette-Prolab-Chapais** Team, and **Team Nemaska** - of the 1997 Raid des Braves Congratulations! Your team spirit and hard work is an inspiration to us all!

To **Chief Billy Diamond** of the Waskaganish First Nation, the Chief, council and entire staff of Chisasibi would like to congratulate you on receiving a **1997 National Aboriginal Achievement Award!**

CONGRATULATIONS

to

"TEAM PIMPICHUU"

of Mistissini in winning the 1997 Edition of the "Raid des Braves".

You have become an inspiration for the Cree Nation of Mistissini. What you have achieved deserves the recognition from all of us, and we are certainly proud of you.

Council & Members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini

Congratulations!

To:
Pimpichuu Team of Mistissini,
Barette-Prolab-Chapais Team,
and **Team Nemaska**,
the winning teams of
the 1997 Raid des Braves
and all other participants in the race.

From the Chief, Council and members
of the Ouje-Bougoumou First Nation.

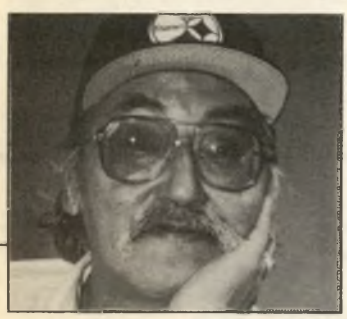
Congratulations also to **Billy Diamond** of Waskaganish, on winning a 1997 National Aboriginal Achievement Award!

We are very proud of you all!

Hey, buddy... Got a good Ski-doo story?

Willie Trapper, 29, journalist

I went out on a joyride on the lake one day. I wanted to set a record. In one place, I saw a bump. I thought it was just a snowpile. But it was a "mistissini." When I hit it, my skidoo flew about 15 or 20 feet. I flew off the skidoo in the air. I got up as soon as I landed, but my skidoo kept going. It stopped about 30 feet away.



Lawrence Jimiken, 47, director

Once when I was young, I was in Waskaganish doing some spring goose hunting. We went out in the bay to get our hunting equipment. The ice was still fairly solid in the morning because it was cold. On the way out, the person in front of me fell through the ice. We had to get him out first. By the time we got the equipment it was warmer and we knew we would have problems on our way back.

We had a sled with a boat on it just in case. As we were going back, I looked back and the ice was falling as we were going. We were still 1 kilometre from the shore. Our saving grace was we were going so fast. Suddenly, I got stuck. The front of the sled went under a layer of ice. When I stepped off the skidoo, I went through. I was still 100 feet from the shore.

I got out, but we couldn't go fast enough to get to shore. Some men came out from the shore with a big boat, and we put everything in it. Let's just say we walked very fast and very gingerly to the shore. We made it.

Thomas Jolly, 40, president of JBCCS/host of Team France

My dad, he was about 70, had a brand new skidoo and he wanted to show it to us. He came to my place and we sat around for a while. Then he went out to start the skidoo. We heard the machine start and went to the window. We saw the machine going by us with no one on it! It went straight into the bush.

Aurillon Frederic, 33, Team France

We slept in the woods on the second night. We were the only team to do that. We cut some trees and put them on the ground. We made a hole in the snow and a little tent with branches. We made a fire. It was cold! Minus 40. We had no matches—just a spark gun. We took a little gas and soaked the racing card with it, which we lit to start the fire. It was going almost the whole night. There was a little wind that blew the smoke into our "tent." We were completely asphyxiated by smoke. We slept in sleeping bags, but they were soaked and they froze. Happily, we had survival kits. In the kits were some sausages, which we sucked on for food. Of the three of us, we didn't sleep much all night. It was horrible! Everything was completely frozen. About 10 kilometres away, there was a trappers' cabin, where we stopped for some coffee and some cakes (bannock). It was quite an adventure!

Don Saganash, 34, Team Waswanipi

We were heading to Whapmagoostui and we were in 2nd place. So my partner stopped me and I asked him, "What's wrong?" In the middle of the race, he told me he wanted to take a dump! That's with overalls and it was -39! There were no trees around. It was open tundra. I reached the other team and he told me, "Where's your partner?" So I told him he had to take a dump. No choice! So he laughed.

(*A true story from Raid Des Braves '97.*)

Michel Letourneau, 47, MNA for Ungava riding

I'm the honourary co-president of the Raid Des Braves with Matthew Coon Come. In Lebel-sur-Quévillon, officials asked us to do a couple of laps during the Prologue. Me, I don't race a lot of skidoos. So I said how does it start? Where are the brakes? I got to a little hill and I was trying to go up it. It was a brand new machine so I didn't want to break it! I wasn't using enough gas, so I started sliding backwards down the hill. It stopped there and an Inuit guy ran out and pulled me back on the track. When I came in, it was four or five minutes after everyone else. I came in with my arms up like I was the winner, but I was the last one. So it was fun. Everybody was laughing.

Margaret Diamond, 47, nurse

My second skidoo was my first big machine. I used to have problems starting it. Once, I had to go someplace. I was in my yard. After pulling at it for half an hour, I was getting tired. I had the bright idea of tying up the throttle with one of those garbage ties. So of course, on the first pull it started and took off! It went right between two trees and got stuck.

Maamuitaau
On CBC TV

March 15 and 16
For years residents of Cree communities have been advocating the need to have native police officers. For some towns, their wishes have become a reality. **Maamuitaau** takes a look at this issue featuring interviews with police recruits at the training centre in Nicolet. **Maamuitaau** also talks with an experienced native female constable about her role as a peace officer.

March 22 and 23
The Inuit and Cree residents of Great Whale have a good relationship within their community, however a different attitude exists on the land. **Maamuitaau** examines the allegations of Inuit people setting up camps on Cree traplines north of the 55th parallel. Also on the program, Elder Andrews Natachequan from Whapmagoostui entertains us with his traditional drumming and singing.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

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HERE IS SOME OF WHAT WE WERE PROMISED:

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2. "The protection of the Cree people, their economies and the wildlife resources on which they depend."

3. "Quebec and Canada shall take all reasonable measures (...) to assist the Cree (...) in establishing a trappers' association, as well as a Native controlled and run trapping industry including (...) marketing, registration, collection, transportation, grading, dyeing, manufacturing, etc."

4. "The present system of traplines and the disposition of the beaver reserves presently allocated to the Crees shall continue."

5. Native people duly qualified as conservation officers shall be empowered by Quebec or Canada (...) to act as provincial conservation officers, game officers or fisheries officers."

HOW MANY CREE GAME WARDENS DO YOU KNOW? HOW CAN THE PEOPLE HUNT ON CLEAR-CUT LANDS?

Other issues such as the goose population, firearms control and the European Fur Agreement will be discussed.

COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE TRAPPERS.

These issues will be discussed again at the Annual General Assembly. Come and speak out!

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
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Paid advertisement

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RAID

PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND

Rookie Team Wemindji still standing after finishing 9th.

The winning team starting up in Chisasibi.

Day 9

Almost everyone leaves on time, that is to say Raid Des Braves time, and heads towards Ojay several hours away. Conditions seem favourable for the day's ride in the bush and the racers are expected to finish without problems. Who's it going to be? people wonder—Mistissini or Chapais. Mistissini leads by 50 points, but everybody knows anything can happen in a race like this. We learn that the previous day Mistissini's Larry MacLeod had taken a spill and twisted his leg, making the final stretch even more of a battle.

We have to wait several hours for our answer and catch the bus again after breakfast to the town of Chibougamau one hour away. A crowd slowly gathers at Camp A Jos a few minutes ride from Chibougamau. We hear one of the Mistissini machines is in trouble with a piston problem and might have to be hauled in, costing the team the title. A team that doesn't finish one of the stages of the race gets a 50-point penalty. Chapais is doing well, someone says, but no one seems to be sure. "It got scary," Mistissini mechanic Stanley Neeposh remembers later. Finally, the chopper flies in and brings word that it is Mistissini, Chapais and Nemaska in front. A huge crowd is assembled at the finish line. The racers have to put on a show before they cross the finish line, following a carefully marked bumpy trail that twists and turns.

A roar comes from over a hill and the crowd strains for a better look. It is Mistissini Pimpichuu led by Larry MacLeod. Chapais finishes second overall and then Nemaska. Capissisit of the Nemaska

continued on pg. 21

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NAPE

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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

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PHOTO: NEIL DIAMOND

Larry MacLeod & Abel Coon (missing: Abel Mianscum): winners.

PHOTO: JIMMY DESCHESNES

Final finish Line from the air.

team wipes out seconds after crossing the finish line and the crowd reacts. He is quickly up and unhurt to join his team. Minutes later, a lone Chisasibi trapper comes over the hill and stops just around the final turn for the finish. He curses. He thought his team was right behind him. He calls to his road team, "Where are they? F**k!!!" His team yells back, "Go back and get them!" He turns back and returns minutes later with another member. "What happened to you?!?" he asks loudly, just feet from the finish. Another roar from the trail and it is their team mate just behind another team. Chisasibi finishes.

Later on in the chalet where $50,000 in prizes are about the be handed out, Larry is the picture of happiness. "Wonderful, man—great," he says when asked how he feels. "I've been waiting for this for the last four years." He wants to thank his team, supporters and God. "I'd like to thank all the Crees," he adds. "They did help out a lot. Chapais helped out too. Actually everybody helped out each other a lot. It was great doing this race. Everybody gets along—white and Native. There were some pretty good teams this year. I was impressed." Pimpuchuu's secret? "Stay calm. Just race with my head," says Larry. "We didn't push too hard this year so the mechanics wouldn't have too much work. It's enough that they have to check everything else." He has a special thank-you for his parents: "The people who supported me the most were my parents. They were there almost the whole race."

The Nation would like to thank: Ella Faries, the Hubleys of Waskaganish, Ricky Mark, the Webbs of Chisasibi, John Tapiatic, Jimmy Sam, Sherman Herodier, William Petagumskum & Son, Andrew and Maggie Natachequan, the Boreale Bar, Willie ("Trap") Trapper, Louise and Michel of TWT, 118, Thomas Jolly, Margaret Diamond, Beulah Stewart, Roger Orr, Jean-Paul Beauregard, Dominique Sarrazin, "Dr. Jimmy" of Chisasibi, Earl and Madeline Iserhoff, Hydro-Quebec for the nifty helmet (makes a great ash tray), John of Chisasibi for the film, Deantha Edmunds and Darren for beds, pizza and licorice, Rhonda for the lovely fax (I luv u 2), Vickie for waiting through Valentine's Day, however impatiently, all the teams, the wild chopper pilot. And the Raid. ***(MORE ON PAGE 22)***

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Raid Des Braves whodunit

Who are the people behind the Raid Des Braves? Why do they do it? What do they get out of it?

We kept asking ourselves these questions during the "Raid" until we learned, almost by accident, that the chair of the race is also the president of the Société de développement de Baie James, Don Murphy.

The SDBJ puts an enormous amount of time and resources into this race, but why? Don was with the race the whole nine days, along with at least three or four other SDBJ employees, a platoon of security guards from the Municipalité de Baie James (which is affiliated with the SDBJ) and two Hydro-Quebec employees.

One Cree source we spoke to said the Raid is part of Quebec's strategy of "occupying the North," which is important especially in case the province separates from Canada. "It allows Quebec to claim it occupies the North. And it softens the Crees for other development," he said. "It has to do with the creation of 'Radissonie.' It's not Iyiyuuschii any more—it's Radissonie. To me, this is all part and parcel of a strategy."

Don Murphy doesn't hide his plans. He has a vision. A message. "Now that the hydro projects are finished, at the SDBJ we're there to promote other economies. Forestry is limited. Mining has good potential. For Native people, there is a good future is mining," he says.

The Raid is not just a race, "but also a message," says Don. "We want to sell the North as a real part of Quebec to the rest of Canada and the world—as a territory where three ethnies live in harmony, together and have projects together. We want to show the modern side of the North with Natives implicated in real jobs." What *are* real jobs? "Mining, forestry, tourism."

So that's why we see Chantiers Chibougamau, Barrette Chapais, Cambior, Hydro-Quebec and the Troilus Mine on the list of Raid sponsors.

"We want to create confidence" between Natives and non-Natives, Don adds. "I think the worst problem we have is we don't trust each other. Myself, I am going this week to all the communities to build that confidence." END

Overall Results Raid Des Braves '97

1. Pimpichuu Team of Mistissini #24 (2455 pts.) Prizes: $16,000
2. Barette-Prolab-Chapais #3 (2410) $9,000
3. Team Nemaska #22 (2280) $6,000
4. Team Hurricane de Senneterre #16 (2245) $3,000
5. Chisasibi Cree Trapper Team #8 (2200) $2,000
6. Eastmain Team #15 (2140)
7. Métal Marquis-La Sarre #25 (2135)
8. Team of Waswanipi #7 (1995)
9. Wemindji Team #19 (1940)
10. Chisasibi Team CSC #10 (1865)
11. Team Radisson #35 (1750)
12. France #10 (1310)
13. Team Kuujjuaq #14 (0)
14. Équipe d'Ungava (0)

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NOTICE

CREE SCHOOL BOARD POST SECONDARY AND ADULT SECONDARY-LEVEL OFF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

We are now accepting applications for financial assistance for FALL 1997.

The application DEADLINES for Financial Assistance for programs starting for Fall 1997 are:

APRIL 01, 1997

Application Forms for Financial Assistance are Available in the Following places:

- All Cree Communities (at the Schools)
  See the Student Affairs Technicians or Guidance counsellors
- Adult Education Centres in the Communities of Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waswanipi and Waskaganish
- Cree School Board Post Secondary Offices in Montreal (1-800-463-7402) and Hull (1-800-567-9667)

Send applications, along with required documents to:

CREE SCHOOL BOARD
Attention: Jane L. Blacksmith
277 Duke Street, Suite 200
Montreal, Quebec
H3C 2M2

1-800-463-7402
514-878-9995

IMPORTANT NOTE:
LATE applications will not be accepted.

Women and the Royal Commission

by Dorothy MacLeod-Nicholls

I attended the conference on the report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples held recently at McGill University.

First of all, through some delays in registration by the Cree School Board, as students we found ourselves scurrying around looking for ways to get in after we were informed it was all booked up. I attending the conference wearing a *Nation* press pass. Fortunately, I saw other students, such as Alice Petawabano, Lillian Brien and Ella Saganash at the opening session. I was caught up in greeting many people whom I had not seen for some time before and during the sessions. It was a welcome change from studies and the opening made me aware of the importance of the Royal Commission. I was surprised at the amount of controversy surrounding the findings and how valid the report would actually be. By this time everyone was wondering if the governments would act on it or not.

During the conference I had a chance to hear three interesting women: Andrea Bear-Nicholas from St. Thomas University, NB, Martha Flatherty from the Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association, Ottawa, ON and Patricia Monture-Angus of the University of Saskatchewan, SK.

Michele Rouleau, Past president of QNWA

Andrea Bear-Nicholas has spent the past 30 years researching Malecite/Maliseet history (located in eastern Canada, including Quebec) and was despaired by the misspelling of their name throughout the report ("Malecite" is used by Quebec and "Maliseet" by the New Brunswick Natives). Although she appreciated the intent of the Royal Commission, she felt they had failed in a most critical way: history is missing. The report leaves out a critical truth in that Native people had their land stolen.

Bear-Nicholas asks the question: "Are we asking for land out of the goodness of their heart?" She believes that Canada continues to be an imperialist state that still seeks to dominate Native people. The early colonial discussions with Native peoples about treaties sounded good but the colonizers' real intent was to get the land away from Natives, according to Bear-Nicholas. She feels not much has changed. We may be tricked yet again with the report.

Martha Flatherty spoke of the amount of money spent on the Royal Commission. She told us that women's issues such as economics and social development do not receive adequate funding. Women's votes are needed but still women's programs continue to be

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Questions about the Federal Budget?

BUDGET 1997 HOTLINE

For more information, call toll-free.
From Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. E.S.T.

1-888-454-7777
TDD: 1-800-465-7735

Department of Finance Canada / Ministère des Finances Canada

underfunded and women still have to struggle for equality. Women and children are at the center of violence in the homes. Flatherty ended by saying that to continue cutting women's funding is a sure way of guaranteeing seats for men in the legislation.

Patricia Monture-Angus remarked on Matthew Coon Come's comment on hope for the future for Aboriginal peoples. She said it would seem men are more hopeful in this direction than women. Hope is important for our survival. Monture-Angus went on to say that change has to happen in our communities, not Ottawa, for women to feel hopeful as well.

The Commission's report states "women's work is behind the scenes," but Monture-Angus said this is wrong. Everything comes from the woman. The home, the family is the scene and the woman is the center of the home. Healing is not a big warm fuzzy feeling, it's damn hard work and healing has become "women's work." The report states that women were highly respected. Monture-Angus said, "Excuse me, not were, are. It (the Commission's report) is full of European culture."

She told us, "Go home and reinforce the spider web in our communities. Like the spider, the women are the center of the web."

From the open floor, a young blond-haired, blue-eyed student stood to her feet to ask how she could help. In her awakening from youth, she discovered the disparity of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. So many times, a young woman or man asks the same question at least once at these conferences. At a time when we feel the pain of survival in a world that does not understand our need to be who we are, we become unmoved by this type of request. Our communities experience the help of many good Samaritans who would have us change to become better equipped to deal with a set of standards that are imposed on us by others.

Unfortunately, Ella and I sat side by side weeping for the young student who was weeping beside us and for our people who needed to be understood that we have our culture, traditions and way of life. We want to be left to live then as we once knew.

classifieds

Hi to all my buddies in Chisasibi, Lisa S., Virginia S., Edith B., Hannah L., Rebecca Gunner, Tommy S., Bruce S., Jean Paul M. and last but not least Paul S. (Pumba). I miss you guys a lot and I hope to see you all in the near future. Take care! Love in friendship, Priscilla B. (Ojay).

A quick hello to Pakesso Mukash in Whapmagoostui. You probably don't know me but I know you. I saw you in Mistissini when you were having your little concert. So you're getting there! Keep it up! Sooner or later you'll be singing in front of thousands of people. And it's going to be something you'll never forget. Unless if you decide to quit, you will regret it. So take a chance. Good luck and keep on performing new songs. take care. From me in Mistissini.

Hi to SW in Nemaska. I miss seeing your smiling face. When we were seeing each other, you have changed my life in a special way. Your love, your smile have given me hope for a better tomorrow. I will never forget you and your love. I can't wait to see you again. I hope you still love me the way you loved me before. I hope you don't find anybody else to give your love to. I would like to go out with you again someday if you remember me. All my love, from me in ??? Guess who. C ya, love ya! 4-ever.

To the best lover girl (Nem.). Here's a little note to let you know I've appreciated and enjoy the middle week of December in all of our two years together. Thanks a lot for the memories. I will cherish them forever. What do you know, we might even get a little surprise out of it all. You made the most wonderful and happy times together that I will always treasure! I just want you to know how much I love and adore you with all my heart and soul. My love for you will never fade, it will always remain n my heart forever! You make my everyday as special as you are! With lots of love and sweet kiss!! To my sweety shorty. xoxoxoxoxox. Sean Earl Wilson.

To a friend I have not seen since the new year: Paula Mattawashish from Mist. Just wanted to wish you a happy new year and take care. Hope to see you soon. From Annette of Ojay.

Hi and happy new year to Andy Iserhoff in Mist. So, how are you doing? Do you remember when we told you to dance some more in Val d' Or tournament. You u were so coo when you danced like John Travolta. Hope you remember the girls you met at the Val d' Or tournament. Take good care of yourself! P.S. Can you please ask the DJ to play Coco Jambo?

Hello to my cuz in Waswanipi, Kimberly Happyjack. So when are you coming to Waskaganish again Norma? Hello to DJ sr. in Nem. Comment ca va? From #1B.

To Suzanne Tapiatic (Pigigy). Happy Valentine's Day. From your only Valentine Ronald.

To Suzanne and Ronald. Happy 1st Valentine's Day. With lots of hugs and kisses from Grandma and grandpa Washapabano.

Happy Valentine's Day to all my little sweethearts who are attending Anjabowa Daycare in Chisasibi. I will never run out of hugs and kisses for yous all. Don't forget to brush your cheebit whow, after eating those chocolates. From your big sweetheart in the office, gerti. xoxoxoxo

Happy Valentine's Day to Lorrianne Rupert. With love always, from Bob, Paul, Murray and Clayton.

Happy Valentine's Day to my mommy Debbie Rupert. Love, Clayton (Barney Fan).

A special hello to my favorite sister Sarah W. Diamond and her husband Murphy. I can't wait to see you two again. I miss you guys a lot, especially to my niece Kyleen Weischee. remember I'll always love you all. From Norma. Mist. xoxoxoxo.

Mom and Dad: I may not be the most obedient or smartest kid in the world, but you have to admit I have great taste in parents. Happy Valentine's Day to you both. From your daughter Angelina Brien.

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Congratulations

The Band Council and members of the Waskaganish First Nation would like to express their sincere congratulations to CHIEF BILLY DIAMOND on receiving the National Aboriginal Achievement Award in Calgary, Alberta on Feb. 7, 1997. We are very proud of you!

2nd CREE REGIONAL HEALING CONFERENCE

The Residential School Syndrome — "A Step Towards Healing"

March 10,11, 12, 13 & 14, 1997

Kanio-Kashee Lodge, Waskaganish, Quebec

Workshops:

- **Physical/Sexual Abuse**
- **Family Breakdowns**
- **Abandonment/Neglect**
- **Anger/Bitterness**
- **Residential School Syndrome**
- **Gambling Addictions, etc.**

Brainstorming Sessions & Workshops on Healing Programs Development

OBJECTIVES:

To provide the opportunity for aboriginal men and women who went through the residential school system and their families to get together in the spirit of sharing, unity and support.

To explore ways and means for the healing and lead to the total healing of the mind, heart,body and spirit.

To reinforce the knowledge that any form of abuse from anybody or anywhere is unacceptable.

To plan and develop both short and long term programs that will assist and support healing processes which can be implemeneted in the Cree territory.

To organize a regional Cree Healing group that will be responsible to carry different programs and mandates developed from this conference.

ENTERTAINMENT /SPECIAL ATTRACTION:

- Handicraft Displays and Exhibits
- Local Talents
- Social/Special Entertainment Night

SPECIAL GUESTS & SPEAKERS

- Ivan Doxater
- Chief Billy Diamond - Waskaganish First Nation
- Elders
- Many more

MC: Susan Esau

Registration: Please register by February 28, 1997

For information regarding registration, travel, accomodation & meals, please contact the following people:

William T. Hester	Susan Esau	Kenneth Weistche
(819) 895-8650	(819) 895-2204	(819) 895-8650